

active member of the community, serving as a Scout Master and being involved in youth baseball. He is an active member of the Owingsville United Methodist Church.

Mr. Baber and other members of the Great-est Generation served their country bravely and are true heroes. Mr. Baber and his fellow men and women in uniform secured our freedoms for future generations. He is truly an outstanding American, a protector of freedom, and an inspiration to us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DIANE BLACK

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded for roll call votes on Thursday, May 24, 2018 because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye on final passage of H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. This legislation provides our men and women in uniform with the resources they need to protect our freedom at home and abroad, and fully funds the highest pay raise for our troops in the last nine years.

JACOB HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Hernandez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jacob Hernandez received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Hernandez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING DR. THOMAS A. KAZEE

HON. LARRY BUCSHON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Thomas A. Kazee upon his retirement as the 23rd president of the University of Evansville.

A political scientist by preparation, this Ohio native became the face of UE. While reaffirming its decades-old tradition of world-renowned higher education, Dr. Kazee championed the

role of the modern university and wisely recognized that it must continue to evolve and respond to contemporary challenges.

As creator of the "UE Guarantee," Dr. Kazee boldly defined UE's commitment to its students with emphasis on substantial financial aid, internships, international study, and graduation in four years. He prompted the University to reexamine its career development strategy even after graduation. He led a collaboration with the Indiana University School of Medicine and its crosstown neighbor, the University of Southern Indiana, in a transformational Center for Health Sciences in downtown Evansville. He orchestrated a master plan that led to construction of student townhouses, renovations of key academic buildings, and positioned the stately Lincoln Avenue campus for decades to come.

With profound gratitude for Dr. Kazee's career as an academian, community leader, and outstanding steward of a great university, I join all Hoosiers in extending my best wishes in his retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WOODY PETTUS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, Woodrow "Woody" Pettus was a true Virginia gentleman. For 58 years, he worked at The Homestead, a historic resort nestled in the mountains of beautiful Bath County, Virginia. He was an institution there, known for his knack for remembering faces and names and always greeting guests and friends with a smile.

Woody left this earthly life for his heavenly home on May 16, 2018, at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Ruby Alloway Pettus, as well as two children, Woodrow Houston Pettus and wife Helen, and Lisa Pettus Aguilar, and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, and special family members. My prayers for peace and comfort are with them as they reflect on their loss and remember the memories they shared with Woody, affectionately known as "Pa" to some.

Woody was born on March 28, 1941, to the late Walter Woodrow Pettus and Nellie Moats Pettus in Warm Springs, Virginia. He started caddying at The Homestead as a teenager, and instantly made an impression on guests and co-workers alike. While he loved the game of golf, he wanted something with more history and decided to move to the stables and work with his father who was one of the senior Livery Drivers. Woody eventually moved on to the Dining Room where he served in a variety of roles, including his most recent position of Maitre d'. In 2003, Golfstyles magazine recognized him as the Maitre d'Hotel of the Year. Last September, Historic Hotels of America honored him as Ambassador of the Year, which is presented to an individual who has dedicated his or her career to a historic hotel for at least 25 years and has shown exemplary hospitality and service to the hotel and its guests. Woody was one of five generations of Pettuses who have worked at The Homestead. He was also a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Warm Springs, where he was baptized as a youth.

The Homestead is a special place for me and my family. Woody was a dear friend and always greeted my family warmly. He and I enjoyed catching up frequently over the years I know this is a sentiment widely shared as evidenced by the outpouring of support for him when his cancer diagnosis was announced and now in his passing. For many guests, the staff at The Homestead has become an extended family.

The weekend of June 1st, his family, friends, and his beloved "Homestead family" will gather to celebrate his life and pay tribute to his long and vibrant legacy—rich with kindness and a dedication to serving others. It is only fitting that he be celebrated at the place that he loved so dearly by the people he built relationships with over the past six decades.

Woody's presence will be dearly missed in the hallways and dining room of The Homestead, but certainly not forgotten. I know that I will long remember his kind smile and gentle demeanor, just like many others he met over the years. Woody was one in a million, and we are all better for having known him.

He sums it up best himself. When asked what he loves most about what he does, Woody said, "When I can look down the hall leading to the dining room and see some of my guests coming toward me, guests that I've known for years, coming back. That's when I know that my life has not been in vain."

HONORING MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER BRITT SLABINSKI

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2018

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I rise to honor Master Chief Petty Officer Britt Slabinski, a native of Northampton, Massachusetts.

Yesterday, Mr. Slabinski was awarded the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest award for members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Authorized by and awarded in the name of Congress, the Medal of Honor acknowledges those service members who display unparalleled bravery and a willingness to risk their own lives which clearly and conspicuously distinguishes them above their comrades. Mr. Slabinski is only the 12th living servicemember to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery displayed in Afghanistan.

In the early morning hours of March 4th, 2002, during the mountaintop battle of Takur Ghar, Mr. Slabinski led a reconnaissance team in support of a major coalition offensive against Al-Qaida forces in the valley below. According to the United States Navy, after enemy fire brought down one of his team's helicopters, "without hesitation, then-Senior Chief Slabinski made the selfless and heroic decision to lead the remainder of his element on an immediate and daring rescue back to the mountaintop."

The Navy notes that Mr. Slabinski, "with bullets piercing his clothing, repeatedly charged into deadly fire to personally engage the enemy bunker" before the situation became untenable. With daylight approaching, he maneuvered his team to a more defensible